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36. ON THE DISTRIBUTION RANGE OF *BAUHINIA GLAUCA GLAUCA* (BENTH.) BENTH. (LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE) IN INDIA

Bentham (1861: 99) mentioned that *Bauhinia glauca* (Benth.) Benth. extends from "Khasia and Burma to Sumatra and Java". The range of distribution was given on the basis of collections in the Hookerian and other herbaria in Kew, and notes and observations of J.D. Hooker on living flora of Sikkim and Khasia (see Bentham 1861, Preface: 11*-13*). Baker (1878: 283), however, did not include Khasia in the distribution of *B. glauca*, although it is quite probable that he too had examined all the collections studied by Bentham in Kew, and had personal knowledge of J.D. Hooker's notes and observations on the living flora of Sikkim and Khasia.

On the other hand, de Wit (1956: 490) and Larsen and Larsen (1973: 10; 1980: 184) again included Khasia, like Bentham, in the world distribution of the taxon. But in subsequent regional floristic studies, it was not recorded from Khasia, now in Meghalaya (Kanjilal *et al.* 1938; Haridasan and Rao 1985). Sanjappa (1992: 3) mentioned that *B. glauca* ssp. *glauca* is found in Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Dr. Sanjappa kindly informed me (1998 *pers. comm.*) that he had given the Indian distribution on the basis of Bentham (1861) and Fischer (1938). After going through the latter, I found that he had enlisted *B. glauca* on the basis of Gage (1901) on the flora of South Lushai hills, now in Mizoram. Gage (1901: 342) reported, without a field number, his own fruiting collection of *Bauhinia glauca* Wall. from Helio hill, Lungleh, at 3,700 ft (1,128 m). Further, he gave the distribution as 'Burma; Malaya; China' and stated that his collection was a decided northward extension for this species. From Holmgren *et al.* (1990: 172, 526), I found that A.T. Gage's collections are in CAL, but despite a thorough search there, I could not locate any fruiting collection of *B. glauca* from South Lushai hills by Gage without a field number. However, a fruiting collection with a duplicate (Helio hill, N.E. of Lungleh, South Lushai hills, 3,700 ft (1,128 m), 3.iv.1899, *Gage* 100 – CAL) identified as *Bauhinia glauca* Wall. was actually found to be *B. glauca* ssp. *tenuiflora* (C.B. Clarke) K. & S. S. Larsen. In fact, all the relevant specimens (*Clarke* 42304 D, 42342 B, *Craib* 177, *Deb* 2439, *Gage s.n.*, 100, *Leslie* 113, *Meebold* 6340, *Mokim* 35, 57, 259, *Rao* 8042, *Watt* 6915, *Wenger* 6 – all CAL; *Kanjilal* 5644 – DD) or their photographs (*Clarke* 42304 E, 42342 A & C, *Watt* 6915 – all K, photo. – CAL) examined so far by me from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland in northeast India, have been found to be spp. *tenuiflora*, except for the collection *Rao* 8042 – CAL, which comes close to the Chinese taxon *B. glauca* ssp. *hupehana* (Craib) T. Chen (K. & S.S. Larsen *pers. comm.* 1997).

Recently, Larsen and Larsen (1996: 478) stated that ssp. *glauca* is distributed in south India, Burma, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Java, but there is neither any collection nor any report of ssp. *glauca* from south India.

The label on the collection *Helfer* 1864 – CAL of ssp. *glauca* showing the locality as

'Tenasserim and Andamans' is ambiguous, because after the murder of Dr. Helfer by the aborigines in the North Andaman Is., his collections from Tenasserim and Andamans were unfortunately mixed up. Afterwards, all of them were labeled together as 'Tenasserim and Andamans'. Thus, many of his Tenasserim plants have also been ascribed to the Andaman flora (Parkinson 1923, Introduction: xi). This particular specimen seems to me to be from Tenasserim, Myanmar (Burma) because no specimen of ssp. *glauca* has been collected from the Andamans since Helfer's collection, more than a hundred years ago.

This circumstantial evidence shows that the inclusion of India in the distribution range of ssp. *glauca* is not based on firm ground. The true picture is likely to emerge only after the completion of floristic surveys in the underexplored regions of northeast India and the Andaman and Nicobar Is.

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37. ON TWO SPECIES OF *OSBECKIA* LINN. (MELASTOMATACEAE)

In the course of taxonomic revision of Family Melastomataceae for the Flora of India Project, two new species, namely *Osbeckia darjeelingensis* Giri & Nayar and *O. nayarii* Giri were described, based on some old material deposited in the Central National Herbarium (CAL) and the herbarium of the Eastern Circle, Botanical Survey of India (ASSAM). Additional